

**From:** good-dog@northshore.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/27/02 7:43am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Department of Justice;

The proposed settlement with Microsoft (MS) is much too weak to be an effective punishment. I believe this company thinks it can get away with just about anything if it uses words to disguise its true intentions. They are guilty of misleading

In specific, the Educational aspect of the settlement, which would allow MS to give away products and to 'sign up' people to use their products for bargain basement prices, is appalling. MS believes they're being fair and generous with their offer, but if they really want to make amends, I second Apple CEO Steve Jobs' idea that MS give only cash for the face value of the settlement rather than product that is actually worth much less.

If you look at the true cost to MS, the real cost of the products they want to give away will not even come close to the retail value. This seems like a typical MS strategy of subterfuge. The equipment, software and support proposed by MS to be given to schools and the alleged price of such a giveaway is not in any way causing MS to 'pay'. Rather, it's a recruitment move by MS and it will hurt competitors. This would only encourage their monopolistic behavior to continue in the future. What a bargain for MS. No wonder they are excited about their idea!.

Please don't let MS get off scott-free with some gentle hand-slapping. They have very deep pockets. Their actions deserve serious consequences. Why would you go lenient on them yet go full tilt on smaller fish? It'd be a slap in the face of all that the United States of America stands for in terms of justice.

You've got MS where you want them, and you can do the general public a huge favor, help to foster fair business practices in the future, and serve justice by punishing these people where it hurts the most; in their wallet and in their reputation. Make them pay royally and do not allow them to create another monopoly in education with their phony giveaway idea.

Thanks.

Mark Winter